

MODERN LUXURY BRIDES

CHICAGO

57

ENCHANTING
CHICAGO
WEDDINGS

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WEDDING GOWNS
THAT WOW*

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*Let Love
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BY THE PUBLISHERS OF CS MAGAZINE

SCENE

chicago weddings

MICHAEL FALTUM &
JAMES PELLETIER

October 18, 2014

Renaissance Blackstone Chicago Hotel

Photography by Kevin Weinstein

THE COUPLE A mutual friend had tried for a long time to introduce Michael and James, so when the timing finally worked out, it wasn't surprising that the two sat for hours talking over beers and have been together ever since.

THE DETAILS The grooms had a very specific date in mind for their wedding, even though it meant a 17-month engagement. October 18, 2014, would have been Michael's grandmother's 100th birthday. Agnes Faltum raised Michael, so they wanted to honor her on this special date. For the venue, they chose the Renaissance Blackstone, which fit perfectly with the idea of making Chicago and its history an integral party of the wedding. Event planner Beth Bernstein made sure all the details from the linens to the music continued the glamorous theme, with black and gold as the main colors, livened by pops of green foliage and exotic flowers in autumnal colors.

THE PARTY For the ceremony, Michael and James wrote their own vows. "It was important to us as a gay couple to express to one another in front of our friends and families the depth of our love and commitment." When they finished, there wasn't a dry eye in the house, but tears soon gave way to laughter, toasts and music. After the reception, the couple departed for a much-deserved 10-day vacation in Hawaii. —*Laura Hine*



Clockwise from top left: The grooms looked dapper in classic suits by Vera Wang and elegant white boutonnières from Hello Darling; the black, white and gold monogrammed cake from Cake completely captured the couples' Old Hollywood vision.



What We Learned

"Hire a planner! And not just any planner—hire the best! We would also stress the importance of an exceptional wedding photographer, since it's the photos that you'll take with you throughout your marriage," advises the couple.



From left: The couple said "I do" in the ornate Renaissance Blackstone Chicago Hotel; lush centerpieces of mango calla lilies, mokara orchids, gardenia foliage and foxtail ferns lined the tables.



WEDDING RESOURCES

Planner Beth Bernstein, SQN
Events, sqnevents.com
Photographer Kevin Weinstein,
kevinweinstein.com
Rings Diamonds on Wabash,
diamondsonwabash.com
Invitations Courtney Callahan
Paper, courtneycallahan.com
Cake Cake, cake-chicago.com
Grooms' Tuxedos Vera

Wang, Men's Wearhouse,
menswearhouse.com
Bridesmaids' Dresses Adrianna
Papell, bellabridesmaids.com;
Alex Evenings, macys.com
Hair & Makeup Brian Kalz,
thecolourroom.net
Music String Theory,
stylemattersdjs.com
Flowers Hello Darling,
hellodarling.com